

CLASSIFICATION SECCOUNTRY East Germany NOFORN REPORTTOPIC Military Activities in Gera, Zeitz and Zeitz Forest 25X1EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTENT 25X1DATE OBTAINED 7 October 1955 25X1REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. Between 1 and 3 September 1955, the Reuss Kaserne (8141) in Gera appeared to be only partially occupied by an estimated 250 to 350 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Some of the quarters were being reconditioned.¹
2. Between 1 and 3 September, the barracks installation in Tinz (8142) was occupied by 400 to 500 soldiers. The units engaged in field training and physical training. Five T-34 and 1 JS-3 tanks were seen in the barracks yard.²
3. Between 5 and 9 September, the Reuss Kaserne in Gera was occupied by some 1,500 soldiers. Since several buildings were dark at dusk, it can be assumed that the installation was only partially occupied during the period under review. The gun shed, which previously quartered up to 24 x 100-mm AT guns, was vacant. Groups of 30 to 100 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia left the installation toward Untermhaus on several days of observation.¹
4. Between 5 and 11 September, the barracks installation in Tinz was occupied by some 500 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Almost all soldiers observed wore tank insignia. Three T-34, 2 JS-1, 2 JS-2 and 2 JS-3 tanks were seen. 2
5. A craftsman stated that the Forst Zeitz training area was to be improved at a cost of 500,000 eastmarks. The forest was still restricted between 4 and 9 September. No activities were observed on 4 September. Some 10 T-34 tanks and 20 trucks were seen near Friedenssiedlung. On 9 September, 6 T-34 tanks were seen west of the gravel pit. Reports of machine and tank guns were heard. 3
6. At about noon on 2 September, 14 T-34 tanks 2 SU-100 guns, 1 three-axle tank truck and 2 trucks were unloaded at the Zeitz freight station. The vehicles left for the Artillerie Kaserne (8542). After the arrival of the,

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column, the installation was occupied by some 400 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets including 80 percent with tank insignia. 4

7. Between 1 and 11 September, the Infanterie Kaserne (8541) in Zeitz was occupied by approximately 120 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets with artillery, signal and motor transport insignia and 50 to 80 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. The units were fed from the Artillerie Kaserne. Three T-34 tanks were seen in the vehicle shed.5

1. Comment. In late August, the bulk of the 308th Arty Brig of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps stationed in this installation stayed at the post. In the meantime, elements have apparently left; no transfer could be observed, however.

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2. Comment. Small elements of the tank training battalion of the Eighth Gds Army stationed in the barracks installation in Tinz were presumably transferred to the Zeitz Forest. The observations do not indicate any change in the tank equipment of the unit.

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3. Comment. It appears probable that the training grounds will be further improved.

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4. Comment. The tank unit of the 36th Gds Tank Regt of the 20th Gds Mecz Div, which was transferred to Letzling Heath on 26 August, presumably returned.

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5. Comment. The bulk of the 67th Gds Mecz Regt of the 20th Gds Mecz Div is believed to be still stationed at Ohrdruf.

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